

**NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**  
**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2015**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 1.03pm.*

<b>Present:</b>	<b>The Speaker (Chairperson)</b> <b>Mr K McCarthy</b> <b>Lord Morrow</b> <b>Mrs S Overend</b> <b>Mr P Ramsey</b> <b>Ms C Ruane</b> <b>Mr P Weir</b>	
<b>In attendance:</b>	<b>Dr A McGarel</b> <b>Mr T Reaney</b> <b>Mr G McGrath</b>  <b>Ms N Dunwoody</b> <b>Mr H Widdis</b>  <b>Mr J McMillen</b>  <b>Mr R Ramsey</b> <b>Ms F Leneghan</b> <b>Mr G Ervine</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b> <b>Clerk/Chief Executive</b> <b>Director of Clerking and Reporting</b> <b>Clerk Assistant</b> <b>Director of Legal Services and Governance</b> <b>Legal Services and Governance</b> <b>Adviser to the Speaker</b> <b>PS/Speaker</b> <b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>
<b>Observers:</b>	<b>Mr A Rogers</b>	<b>OFMDFM</b>

1. **Apologies**

1.1 There were apologies from Mr Stewart Dickson, Mr Gerry Kelly, Mrs Karen McKevitt and Mr Robin Swann.

2. **Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 October were **agreed**.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 The Speaker **referred** Members to an advice paper regarding revised guidance for Members on Motions.

- 3.2 Members **noted** the advice paper and guidance and **agreed** to discuss this further at party level, with a view to considering the matter again at the next meeting of the Business Committee.
- 3.3 The Speaker **referred** Members to an advice paper regarding the process for tabling questions to Ministers.
- 3.4 Members **noted** the advice paper and **agreed** to discuss this further at party level, with a view to considering the matter again at the next meeting of the Business Committee.
- 3.5 Ms Caitríona Ruane expressed concern at the late notification from the Minister of the Environment of his unavailability to respond to the Adjournment debate that day.
- 3.6 Members **agreed** that the Speaker should seek further information from the Minister of his reasons for not being available.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 02 November 2015**

- 4.1 Mr Weir proposed the same motion as that proposed at the meeting on 10 September; that the Assembly stands in recess until the conclusion of all-party talks, subject to further decision of the Business Committee.
- 4.2 All parties' views on the proposal remained the same so the proposal was **negatived**.

Assembly Business

- 4.3 Members **agreed** to defer the appointment of Ministers of Health, Social Services and Public Safety; Enterprise, Trade and Investment; and for Social Development and Regional Development from Monday 02 November to Monday 09 November.

Public Petition

- 4.4 Members **noted** that there was no change to the Public Petition previously scheduled for Monday 02 November.

Executive Business

- 4.5 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 02 November.

- 4.6 Members **agreed** to include a motion to suspend Standing Order 20(1) on Monday 02 November to allow ordinary business to continue at 2pm should it be necessary.
- 4.7 Members **noted** a request to schedule a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of Justice for Tuesday 03 November.
- 4.8 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 03 November.

#### Committee Business

- 4.9 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business for Monday 02 November or Tuesday 03 November.

#### Private Members' Business

- 4.10 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business for Monday 02 November.
- 4.11 Members **noted** that following last week's meeting UUP selected the following motion for Tuesday 03 November:

- 'Post-Primary Transfer Process' (Mrs S Overend and Mr D Kennedy)

- 4.12 Members **noted** that SDLP selected the following adjournment topic for debate for Tuesday 03 November:

- 'Impact of rates on small businesses in South Belfast' (Ms C Hanna)

- 4.13 Mr Rogers advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 4.14 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

### 5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 09 November 2015**

#### Assembly Business

- 5.1 Members **agreed** that the Appointment of Ministers of Health, Social Services and Public Safety; Enterprise, Trade and Investment; and for Social

Development and Regional Development is listed on the provisional Order Paper for Monday 09 November.

#### Executive Business

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 09 November:

- Question Time to the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister and the Minister for Employment and Learning.

5.3 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 10 November:

- Question Time to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Minister of the Environment.

#### Committee Business

5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Assembly and Executive Review Committee to extend the Committee Stage of the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill for Monday 09 November.

#### Private Members' Business

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 09 November and two Private Members' Motion on Tuesday 10 November.

5.6 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 09 November lay with Sinn Féin and DUP and the selections for Tuesday 10 November lay with DUP and Sinn Féin.

5.7 The DUP indicated that they would not be selecting motions for debate. Therefore the selections for Monday 09 November both lay with Sinn Féin and the selections for Tuesday 03 November lay with SDLP and Alliance.

5.8 The following motions were selected:

- 'Ballymurphy 1971' (Mr T Lunn, Ms R McCorley and Mr A Maskey)
- 'Regional Economic Imbalance' (Mr P Flanagan, Ms M Fearon and Mr M Ó Muilleoir)
- 'Funding for Transport Infrastructure' (Mr J Dallat, Mr M Durkan, Mr C Eastwood and Mr P Ramsey)

5.9 Mr McCarthy undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's selection following the meeting.

5.10 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.

5.11 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 10 November. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with UUP. The following motion was selected:

- 'Care of older people in Mid Ulster' (Mrs S Overend)

5.12 Mr Rogers indicated that Ministers were available to respond to the motions.

5.13 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

## 6. **Any other business**

6.1 The Speaker informed Members that the Committee has been invited by the Assembly and Executive Review Committee to make a written submission on the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill which is now at Committee Stage. The correspondence arrived too late for the packs. Members **agreed** to consider it in more detail at the next meeting.

## 7. **Date and time of next meeting**

7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1.00pm on Tuesday 03 November 2015 in Room 106.

*The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.25pm*

**The Speaker**  
**Chairperson**